

New York September 27th 1834

My Dear Will,

I have but a very short time to write in and must therefore say my say in a few words - however, the day is rainy and I am in hopes the vessel will not sail; should she not we will have a longer talk. - It seems and indeed is, a special long time since we have heard from you and I feel very much inclined to be out of humor as a vessel has sailed without bringing any token from you - one line would have been sufficient to assure us of your well doing and well being and - but I have not time to hold - you know well and well, how anxiously we watch for letters - it is father's chiefest source of pleasure ~~he~~ keeps an account of every vessel that sails in Canton and calculates the time of their probable return, when he goes to the ~~Attorney~~ Athenaeum and scours through every newspaper - he can lay his hand upon - He has been made exceedingly happy of late by receiving a long letter from Sanders which I believe he has copied and sent to you. Since I last wrote I have been pretty much engaged to the City preparing to bring out "my book" - "When the devil are you going to bring out that wonderful book which you speak of so in every letter!" I hear you exclaim - well, I can't say exactly - it will

be ready in the week or a fortnight - but the times will not be propitious before December, as every body are now immersed head over ears in politics. I have great hopes of my maiden work - as Pierce has perused the greater part of it and thinks highly of it - and he is a youth of much critical acumen.

The Cholera has nearly left the city - the lanings are returning and Broadway begins to assume the lively appearance it always has after being deserted all summer. And the Battery again swarms with lovely faces, voluptuous forms, well turned legs and ankles and other like things pleasing to the eye of youth. In strolling there yesterday I met our little favorite Emily Ogden looking as sweet and plump as ever and walking in Green - which street in the afternoon, a bustling pretty coat fluttered up a pair of steps. I cast up my eyes and beheld such a foot, such a leg, such a - as I did not dream that little Carry Callender was mishep of. Then I went in the evening to Cochrans and there I saw the Bakeys and Dickey and that eternal omnipresent Mrs Davis - all of which made me feel as if the new campaign had commenced. Though I shall not be in the field this winter - I am tired of parties and the people who frequent them. George Duer and myself are determined to be exclusive this winter. We are going to devote ourselves to the Callenders and Ogden - especially the latter as they have many family parties and give excellent suppers - ahem - George however, pretends to talk seriously of going to New Orleans to join his brother William, but I suspect it will be all talk - it will be with him as with the latter, Stanley. he will not make a move until he gets engaged to some girl or has some other powerful stimulant to exertion.

Edgar, Amanda, Emily and myself went to her house to a small gathering evening before last. The same old set there. George Hoffman, who has returned from the western country reduced to a skeleton - lean - lank and heartily disgusted with the western country and western people - and every thing else western - Stephen Williams with his vulgar ragged face - talking to every one. Bob Temple who has partly got over his food looks - and in fact the old set - George is looking very keen through a pair of brown whiskers. Ben Robinson is likewise cultivating a crop - Let me see - what girls were there in the first place my Kate - who is not near so pretty as she was - Kate Duer who is much prettier and Kate Morris who has got bravely over all the good looks she ever had. Then there were the three kings - the youngest Alice - very pretty - just coming out - Sabina Miller who having no beauty to lose remains very plain. Ellen Duer as handsome as ever, flirting desperately with Nelson - some say they are engaged - others that they ought to be - and others that they would be - some that his mother don't like the match, because the beautiful Ellen has no other dowry but her beauty - the latter opinion I have no faith in - as he is a youth that would send his mother to jail if she interposed with him. My opinion is that the matter rests with the gentlemen and that they may get the man and wife - you probably recollect the youth - used to ride up and down Broadway in a white grey horse, thin and lanky like him self. he is especial ugly, but sensible and rich! The latter quality, the fair Ellen escheweth not. her sentimentality to the contrary notwithstanding. Theodore D. was there - grown wondrous thin and trans - parent - in fact I never saw so many thin people gathered together before. They looked as if each had gone through a course of premonitory symptoms. The Thomes walk Broadway and Fifth as formerly - poor and beaux less. The youngest Oakley is being admired. Long to kiss as you may recollect - of a sunshiny afternoon may frequently be seen, Sarah and her little man John after.

looking in all the world like an immense ship being towed by a little sturdy steamer. - Edgar saw your old friend Ruth at the Springs (Lebanon) this summer looking as pretty as ever. - I did not join the party. - The Blackwelder have not yet returned from Georgia point where they have been passing the summer. Of Lewis & Clark I hear nothing. -

I went with Edgar and train last evening to the theatre - saw miss Phillips who is making a great noise and drawing crowded houses - not to be compared to our old friend Fanny Kemble that was - Though there are not wanting those who say she surpasses the latter. - Among the number are the Hones who have lost their affection for Fanny so it is generally known that they are mentioned in her "Book". - It is said she remarks that she was considerably bored by one Mr Hone - When the book is out I will send it to you

I know you will like to have any thing from our old favorite -

The Bridge Street concern are scattered and being scattered - Uncle Mark is at Gov Kemble in the Highlands with Sarah Paris - The little ones Julia and Mary have gone to the Free Seminary - Edgar and party go to Baltimore in a few days - we will have a small party this winter - Mary goes to Boarding school and Sarah will spend the winter at Edgar -

Kate will probably go into society this winter - she has every advantage as every body is anxious to be acquainted with the niece of W. J. - and many of the Fashionables have already called upon her - But between you and I while I much fear she will not make any thing of a stir in society - she sadly lacks energy and heart lathe - I have a deal to say but Father is waiting to make up the parcel - Good bye you my dear will - I think of you often and constantly wish you were here. -
Your affectionate brother J.

Mr William Irving

Care of Purcell & Co

San Antonio

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